

service to our country because you answered the call.

I want to also say thank you to my staff:

My longest-serving staff member, Kim Rubin, who came with me on day one and who has served me every single day so superbly as my scheduler. There is no one quite like her, and I have absolutely no idea how I will order my life once I leave here without Kim Rubin.

I say thank you to my chief of staff, Robert Boland, who has stepped in and done a wonderful job with our well organized machine in our office. He makes it a joy for everyone in our office to serve.

I say thank you to my press communications director, Dan Kotman, who has done such a wonderful job every day challenging me to make sure that I can be as good as I can and to keep me from making the mistakes that I am all too prone to make;

For Mikayla Hall, who keeps me on the current edge in absolutely everything that she does, with a brilliant career in front of her;

For Renee Doyle, my dear longtime friend and legislative director, who has a heart of gold and who has served tirelessly in every form of her capacity;

For Jason Frye, Sergeant Frye, who has served our Nation as a veteran but who now will be a legislative director for my successor, and he will do a wonderful job serving.

For Kevin Wysocki, who has served me so well. I thank him, Mr. Speaker, for the brilliant, high-quality man of integrity that he is;

For Jessica Cahill, who has always been there to serve me in every possible capacity that she was asked to do;

For our intern Julie; for our district director Deb Steiskal, who has been so faithful to me during my time in service; for Barbara Harper, who has been with me through thick and thin through 16 years of activism and political life; for Nicole Severson Pelzer, who serves our veterans; for Karen Miller, who will continue to serve our district.

I am so grateful for the Capitol Police, for all that they have done to secure my safety; for the Sergeant at Arms; for our chaplains; our Bible study leaders; for the Clerk's Office.

I want to give a special shout-out to James, who runs the railroad car in the basement of the Rayburn Building. James has become a wonderful friend, a man of God, and we literally have tears in our eyes when we are saying good-bye to each other in these last days. He has brought joy to my heart, and I thank him as well as I thank Maria, who stands right out here outside the door. She has to fetch me all the time because I am usually the last one in the Chamber, trying to get more business done, and Maria says it is time to go, Congresswoman, and I thank God for Maria and what a darling that she has been.

I am grateful for the committee staff from the Financial Services Com-

mittee, on which I have been privileged to serve for 8 years, for the committee staff on the Intel Committee. No one knows how hard they work and what a vital service they play to our Nation.

I am grateful for Bonnie, the elevator lady, who is always so happy.

I am grateful for the two ladies at our lunch counter back in the cloakroom, to Ms. Pat and Ms. Doris. You are such good cooks, you make wonderful sandwiches, and I always knew that if I was short \$2, you would see me through to the next day. So thank you for believing in my creditworthiness.

More than anything, I want to say thank you to the Founders of this Nation, who gave us the most incredible ride by believing in us and in our future, by recognizing that these truths are self-evident, that all men and all women are created equal, that we are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among those rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

What that means to me is this: no government gave me rights that only God can give, and no government can take away the rights that only God can give. The only reason that we even have a government and the only reason it was instituted among men is to secure for me and for you the rights that God gave us: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Beyond that, we rule by the consent of the governed.

This is a pretty simple gig to figure out here. There are things that government can't touch. Would that we would learn that. But there are things that we do, and those things that we do should be for the happiness of mankind. You see, it is our job not to think only of ourselves, but to think of the generations that are yet to come.

My favorite Americans are people who didn't know they were Americans. They were the Pilgrims. They came here before our Nation was founded. I love the story that was written by Governor Bradford. He wrote in his journal, which I have read in the King's English multiple times. The Pilgrims are one of my favorite groups of people.

Governor Bradford wrote that with the sorrow and the sacrifice that the Pilgrims made—you know, the very first year when they came over, fully half of them died in that first starving winter. Governor Bradford wrote that it was worth it all because the Pilgrims saw themselves, in his words, as stepping stones. He said they willingly laid down their lives and sacrificed themselves because they looked into the future, Mr. Speaker, and they saw you, and they saw me, and they saw all of the American generations that would come after them, and they saw what a marvelous land filled with natural resources, the ability to have freedom, a completely new covenant, a completely new promise that we could make with the future and with the God that we trust.

We could have here a brand new, ordered experiment in liberty, and we

did. The generations benefited, and our generation has benefited like nothing before. And that is what we too must do.

As I wind down my remarks, I say thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you that I could have that privilege of also being a stepping stone to look to the future so that the next generation would live better than we do today. Thank you for the privilege.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 2244, TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 12, 2014, THROUGH JANUARY 3, 2015

Ms. FOXX from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-654) on the resolution (H. Res. 775) providing for consideration of the bill (S. 2244) to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; and providing for proceedings during the period from December 12, 2014, through January 3, 2015, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 30 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, one of the great privileges of serving in this body is that occasionally we walk among giants. Most of us 435 Members are ordinary, but among us are a few extraordinary citizens who become Members of Congress and serve this great country.

We are saying good-bye this week to one of those giants. JOHN DINGELL, after serving some 59 years in this Chamber, is leaving us, and leaving us with a legacy of legislation that is truly astonishing: the Endangered Species Act, the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments, the Safe Drinking Water Act, legislation to create the first international wildlife refuge in North America, not to mention the Civil Rights Act or the Affordable Care Act or any number of other giant pieces of legislation.

He has often said when asked about the jurisdiction that he was in charge of as chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee that he would point to a map of the Earth when asked about his jurisdiction and would say,

"If it moves, it is energy, and if it doesn't, it is commerce." That is the way he would define the jurisdiction under his leadership.

We are thrilled that his wife now continues that extraordinary legacy by joining us as a Member of the next Congress, and I look forward to working with her on so many very important issues.

So to JOHN DINGELL I say, I walked among many here in this Chamber, none as giant as you, and forevermore I will remember your great leadership to this body and to this country.

MEDICAID PRIMARY CARE PAY BUMP AND
WOMEN'S HEALTH

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I now would like to shift gears, Mr. Speaker, and speak about an issue that, frankly, JOHN DINGELL would be very concerned about as well, and that has to do with Medicaid primary care pay bump.

At the end of this year there will be up to 7 million more women who are eligible for Medicaid through the Medicaid expansion program who will not be able to get health care because they can't find a doctor.

□ 1815

Medicaid pays less than Medicare and private insurance for primary care. That is not surprising. In 2012, the average Medicaid rates were only 59 percent of Medicare rates for primary care services.

Now, you may be scratching your head and saying: Well, why would we somehow cheat the poor out of health care? That is precisely what we are doing. By reducing the amount of money available to physicians who provide care to the poor in this country, we are basically saying: "Find it if you can."

In my home State of California, the Medi-Cal reimbursement rates are on average only 43 percent of Medicare rates for primary care services. This map shows what the situation is. The very light color are those States which were at 33 to 57 percent, the medium blue is at 59 to 82, and the dark blue is at 85 to 98 percent of Medicare rates. As you see, most States are in that 59 to 82 percent range, but many large States, like California and Florida, are between 33 and 57 percent.

The Affordable Care Act addressed this issue by creating a 2-year Medicaid pay bump for certain primary care services for millions of low-income individuals newly eligible for Medicaid-covered care. Without congressional action by the end of this year, that pay bump expires and, with it, health care for millions of Americans.

I come to the floor today to demand that we extend the Medicaid pay bump past 2014 and protect health care for our low-income constituents.

Additionally, the way the current pay bump is structured disadvantages women, many of whom prefer to see their trusted OB/GYNs to access primary and preventive care services. As we know, primary care and preventive

care are crucial to the general health of our citizens, as well as to the reduction of health care costs, but the pay bump doesn't cover these crucial primary care providers.

When I was in the State legislature in California, I, like many of us here, tended to find legislation that related to something that I knew. I realized that I never went to the doctor. The only time I went to the doctor was to visit my OB/GYN once a year.

When primary care providers were being identified, I thought: Why shouldn't OB/GYNs be allowed to be primary care providers as well? So I introduced legislation in California which became law that specified that indeed OB/GYNs could be primary care providers.

What we do know is almost 6 in 10 women report seeing their OB/GYN on a regular basis. It is the one thing that women do at least once a year. One-third of women view their OB/GYN providers as their main source of care, so Federal recognition of the primary care role that OB/GYNs play for women in the ACA's Medicaid pay bump lags behind this general recognition in many other sectors of our health care infrastructure.

Thirty-five States and the District of Columbia classify OB/GYNs as primary care providers for their Medicaid programs. In TRICARE, the Federal health care program for our military servicemembers, OB/GYNs are recognized as primary care case managers.

OB/GYNs are included under the primary care provider definition in community health teams, a grant program that supports primary care practices and patient-centered medical homes. In the primary care residency program called the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education program, which aims to increase the number of primary care residents and dentists trained in geographically isolated, economically, or medically vulnerable communities, OB/GYNs are included as one of the primary care disciplines.

Let's be clear. Lack of recognition of OB/GYNs as primary care providers under the ACA pay bump puts women who receive their health care from Medicaid at a disadvantage. Twenty-three percent of women Medicaid beneficiaries report a problem finding a new doctor who will accept their insurance, compared to 7 percent of Medicare beneficiaries and 13 percent of women with private insurance, due very simply to the very low payment plans and rates that exist for Medicaid.

I urge my colleagues to extend the Medicaid pay bump past 2014 and expand it to include a protection for women's health by officially including OB/GYNs as primary care providers.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota, Congressman RICK NOLAN, my very good friend and someone who I admire greatly as well.

(Mr. NOLAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, I want to join my colleagues in paying tribute to a great Member of Congress serving with us today but who is planning to retire, the Honorable JOHN DINGELL. I would like to do so by telling a little story.

Some 40 years ago, I was elected to the Congress of the United States for the first time. Before I had even been sworn in, I faced my first big challenge. The Congressman that I preceded had passed some legislation called the Big Stone Wildlife Management Area. The editor of our biggest newspaper had applauded him for that. I supported it in my campaign. I said: "I'll do everything I can do see that it's fully implemented and fully funded."

Well, I had just been elected, and the President of the United States announced that the project was not going to go forward, it was not going to be implemented, and it was not going to be funded. Here I am, I have just been elected, at least it appears as though I am already doing harm and damage to the district, and I haven't even been sworn in yet.

We came out here for a little orientation session, and I decided I would check with the chairman of the Interior Subcommittee that is responsible for this kind of legislation, to see if he had any advice for me on how I could effectively deal with this.

He said: "Come see me tomorrow." So I went to see him the next day and he said: "Put out a press release. The project is going to be fully staffed, it's going to be fully funded, it's going to be fully implemented."

I said to him, questioningly: "Gee, Mr. Chairman, the President of the United States of America says it's not going to be fully funded, it's not going to be fully implemented."

He put his arm around me and he said: "Son, let me tell you something. Presidents come and go around this town with quite regularity. Old dogs like me have been here forever, and I'm going to be here forever. The bureaucracy will listen to an old dog like me before they'll listen to some darn fool President of the United States."

Well, needless to say, apprehensively, I put out the press release saying the project was going to be fully funded, fully implemented, and indeed, it was. In the process, I learned an incredibly valuable lesson from Mr. DINGELL, and that is there are many ways to effect public policy beyond the legislative actions—which of course are perhaps most important—that we make here in this Chamber.

By getting a hold of these bureaucracies and talking to them and telling them what you would like to see happen and, when appropriate, being supportive of their mission and their goals, they are inclined to be supportive of you as well.

That little story happened 40 years ago. Well, then I went on a 32-year hiatus. I spent the next 32 years of my life in the private sector, in business, community service, and raising my family.

I came back here 40 years later and who is still here proving his point but JOHN DINGELL.

As I said, 11 Presidents have come and gone, but he is still here. I believe he has served longer than any other Member of the Congress in the history of the country; perhaps, most importantly, he is maybe the greatest Member to ever serve in the Congress.

There are so many good things that have happened in this country over the better part of a half a century that we can attribute to the good work of the honorable Representative, the great Representative JOHN DINGELL.

JOHN, we are all so grateful for your incredible service. I am thrilled and honored to be able to be here to join my many other colleagues in saluting you for your great service to the people that you have represented so ably from your own district, but your larger vision as well of what has been so important for the progress of the people here in America.

Thank you for your wisdom. Thank you for sharing that with so many of us who benefited from having sought your wisdom. Thank you for your effectiveness and all the great things you have done for this country. We salute you, Mr. DINGELL.

We love you, and we will miss you, but we will be forever grateful. This country will always be a better place for you having served in this Chamber.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GERLACH) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I now have the opportunity to offer remarks concerning my six terms of service in the House of Representatives. What a distinct honor and privilege it has been to serve 700,000 fellow citizens from southeastern Pennsylvania in these hallowed halls.

From the moment I stepped foot in this building during freshman orientation back in 2002, I knew I was joining an institution that has been at the epicenter of landmark legislative decisions during the course of our Republic's history, and I knew that I would put up scores of historically important votes on behalf of my constituents.

From sitting in Statuary Hall during our freshman orientation dinner, where the likes of Abraham Lincoln and John Quincy Adams served, to sitting in this Hall during my first State of the Union address, to meeting with the President in the White House or on Air Force One, I have had more than my fair share of "pinch me" moments in this job.

However, the essence of the service that we all provide to our constituents is not the number of special moments

interacting with a President or sitting through a historic speech. It is the honor and the privilege to serve every single day and in working to meet the needs, aspirations, and expectations of one's constituents.

We introduce legislation, we vote on bills that come before us, and we undertake day-to-day constituent services that hopefully improve the quality of life of our fellow citizens and move our great Nation forward.

The majority of this work is done outside of the political limelight and is rarely reported on by the media, but the real, important work that all House Members do every day boils down to being the strong and passionate voice for the 700,000 citizens we serve, both in this legislative Hall, as well through the constituent services we provide.

I have had the great fortune of having some bills passed in both the House and Senate and then signed into law. Those experiences were very heartwarming and satisfying, but I also assisted in having constituents get veterans benefits or Social Security checks sent to them or their son or daughter receiving an appointment to one of our fine military academies.

Each and every one of those legislative and constituent experiences has added to the richness and fulfillment I have received from my experience here, and so I must express my gratitude and my appreciation to the numerous people who have assisted in supporting me along the way.

I have been blessed with wonderful supporters back home who have helped me through some very tough and competitive campaigns. They were always there to lend their energy and commitment, and I especially thank them for the faith they placed in me.

I have had a terrific staff, both in my D.C. and district offices, who have tirelessly worked on behalf of my constituents and supported me in my efforts. I would particularly like to recognize the various chiefs of staffs I had over the years: Linda Pedigo, Guy Ciarrocchi, Bill Tighe, Annie Fultz Dutton, and Lauryn Schothorst. They have been incredibly helpful and responsible for allowing us to accomplish all that we have.

On a more personal note, I would also like to thank my mother for the unbelievable inspiration and example she was for me over the years through her work ethic, her honesty and integrity, and her passion for civic responsibility.

I also want to thank my two sisters, Hedy and Eve, for always supporting me in my decisions to run for public office and in helping me any way they could.

□ 1830

A special thank you to my children—Katie, Jimmy, and Robby—and my stepchildren—Joel, Jay, and Katelyn—for their unwavering support for my public life.

Finally, I want to thank my great partner in life, my wife, Karen, who

has unfailingly helped me and supported me in whatever public service decisions I have made.

As we close out the 113th Congress, amid cantankerous partisan relations both here in Congress as well as in our country generally, I would be remiss if I did not call on all of my colleagues here to renew their commitment to work together across ideological and partisan lines to find the best public policy that will move our country forward.

We share a common purpose as Members: to represent and advocate on behalf of our respective districts and reflect the will of the voters who have sent us here.

But the American people want something more. They have a burning hope that Members, regardless of party affiliation, will work through their political differences and find the common ground that is the bedrock of our country. So now, more than ever, public service must be infused with the commitment to achieve and not just to argue.

I wish all of those being sworn into office at the start of the 114th Congress in a few weeks the best of success as they work towards historic achievements in the next 2 years.

Leaving Congress gives one time to pause and think and ask a simple question: Why did I come here in the first place?

Well, the answer to that question is pretty clear to me and pretty simple: to provide my constituents with a strong and passionate voice in the legislative process, to provide a level of constituent service that is second to none, and to serve with honesty and integrity in all actions.

As I look back, I hope and believe I have accomplished these goals, and I am most appreciative of all the great friends that I have met in my time here. But above all, I thank all of those who voted me into public office over the past six terms for their confidence and for their trust. It has been an incredible honor and a privilege to serve.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills and a Joint Resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 78. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4110 Alameda Road in Houston, Texas, as the "George Thomas 'Mickey' Leland Post Office Building".

H.R. 1707. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 302 East Green Street in Champaign, Illinois, as the "James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 2112. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 787 State Route 17M in Monroe, New York, as the "National Clandestine Service of the